

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A friction engaging device, comprising:

a rotating drum which is a cylindrical rotating body, around a perimeter of which there is provided a friction member, and which is engaged with/disengaged from a predetermined coupling member via the friction member; and

a ring gear which is spline-coupled to an inner surface of the rotating drum and which ~~is positioned while contacting contacts~~ an inward flange that is integrally provided with the rotating drum, wherein

a centrifugal oil passage which is formed between the ring gear and the inward flange, and which introduces lubricating oil inside the rotating drum to a spline-coupled portion of the ring gear and the rotating drum by centrifugal force, and a plurality of through holes which are formed in the rotating drum and through which the lubricating oil, that has flowed into the spline-coupled portion, flows to an outside of the rotating drum where the friction member is provided ~~are formed~~.

2. (Currently Amended) The friction engaging device according to claim 1,

wherein the centrifugal oil passage ~~is formed of comprises~~ a plurality of radius direction grooves formed in a radial pattern on an end face of the ring gear or the inward flange, and an axial direction oil passage which introduces the lubricating oil in the axial direction to the through holes ~~is formed by forming a clearance between spline teeth in a portion of the spline coupled portion, that corresponds to a periphery side end portion of the radius direction groove, the clearance in the portion being larger than a clearance in the other portion.~~

3. (Currently Amended) The friction engaging device according to claim [[2]] 1, wherein a plurality of protrusions are formed on at least one of ~~the~~ an end face of the ring gear ~~and or~~ the inward flange, and a clearance is formed between the end face of the ring gear and the inward flange ~~such that to form at least a portion of~~ the centrifugal oil passage is formed.

4. (Currently Amended) The friction engaging device according to claim 3, wherein the ring gear and the inward flange are fixed to each other using [[a]] the plurality of the protrusions.

5. (Currently Amended) The friction engaging device according to claim [[2]] 1, wherein a plurality of ~~the~~ radius direction grooves are formed on at least one of the ring gear and the inward flange to form at least a portion of the centrifugal oil passage.

6. (Original) The friction engaging device according to claim 2, wherein the axial direction oil passage is formed by removing at least one spline tooth of the ring gear.

7. (Original) The friction engaging device according to claim 2, wherein the axial direction oil passage is formed by reducing a height of at least one spline tooth of the ring gear.

8. (Original) The friction engaging device according to claim 2, wherein the axial direction oil passage is formed by increasing a depth of at least one spline groove of the rotating drum.

9. (Currently Amended) The friction engaging device according to claim 2, wherein the axial direction oil passage is formed in a first portion of the spline-coupled portion that extends over to a far edge of one of the plurality of through hole holes, this first portion including a portion corresponding to the one of the plurality of through hole holes, and wherein a second portion of the spline-coupled portion extends the clearance between the teeth in a portion extending from the far edge of the one of the plurality of through hole holes is the same as that of the portion without the axial direction oil passage, and wherein the second portion includes a between-teeth clearance that is smaller than a between-teeth clearance in the first portion.

10. (Original) The friction engaging device according to claim 9, wherein the axial direction oil passage is formed by removing a portion of at least one spline tooth of the ring gear, that extends over to the far edge of the through hole, this portion including the portion corresponding to the through hole.

11. (Original) The friction engaging device according to claim 9, wherein the axial direction oil passage is formed by reducing a height of a portion of at least one spline tooth of the ring gear, that extends over to the far edge of the through hole, this portion including the portion corresponding to the through hole.

12. (Original) The friction engaging device according to claim 9, wherein the axial direction oil passage is formed by increasing a depth of a portion of at least one spline groove of the ring gear, that extends over to the far edge of the through hole, this portion including the portion corresponding to the through hole.

13. (New) The friction engaging device of claim 2, wherein the axial direction oil passage is at least partially formed as a clearance between spline teeth in a first portion of the spline-coupled portion.

14. (New) The friction engaging device of claim 13, wherein the clearance in the first portion is larger than a clearance between spline teeth in a second portion of the spline-coupled portion.

15. (New) The friction engaging device of claim 14, wherein the first portion is closer to the radius direction grooves than the second portion.

16. (New) The friction engaging device according to claim 2, wherein the spline-coupled portion includes a first portion and a second portion, and wherein a clearance in the first portion is larger than a clearance in the second portion such that the axial direction oil passage extends along said first portion, and wherein the plurality of through holes are located in the rotating drum at positions corresponding to the first portion of the spline-coupled portion.

17. (New) The friction engaging device of claim 2, wherein the plurality of radius direction grooves are provided on an end face of the ring gear.

18. (New) The friction engaging device of claim 2, wherein the plurality of radius direction grooves are provided on both the end face of the ring gear and the inward flange.

19. (New) The friction engaging device of claim 3, wherein the plurality of protrusions are provided on an end face of the ring gear.

.20. (New) The friction engaging device of claim 3, wherein the plurality of protrusions are provided on the inward flange.